

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P 111608Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6650
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 21733

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV RESUMES ACTIVITIES IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) MOSCOW 21075, (B) MOSCOW 21436

SUMMARY: BREZHNEV RETURNED TO MOSCOW AUGUST 31.
HIS APPEARANCE IN STILL SHOTS TAKEN AT TRAIN STATION
ON ARRIVAL AND IN TV COVERAGE SINCE THEN HAS BEEN
NORMAL. PRAVDA PHOTO OF LEADERSHIP AT TRAIN STATION,
HOWEVER, HAD BEEN RETOUCED BY APPARENT DELETION OF
ORIGINAL PHOTO OF BREZHNEV AND SUBSTITUTION OF A
DIFFERENT PHOTO. BREZHNEV WAS NOT IN PUBLIC EYE
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FOR A WEEK FOLLOWING HIS RETURN, BUT RESUMED PUBLIC
ACTIVITIES SEPT. 8 WITH APPEARANCE AT BOLSHOY,
THEN MET WITH SENATOR KENNEDY ON SEPT. 9. SEPT. 7
PRAVDA REVIEW OF COLLECTION OF BREZHNEV'S FOREIGN
POLICY SPEECHES AND ARTICLES AMOUNTS TO BROAD-GAUGE
DEFENSE OF BASIC TENETS OF BREZHNEV'S FOREIGN
POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. BREZHNEV RETURNED TO MOSCOW AUGUST 31 BY TRAIN FROM CRIMEA (REF A). ANDROPOV AND PELSHE WERE ONLY MEMBERS OF MOSCOW-BASED LEADERSHIP WHO DID NOT EITHER SEE HIM OFF IN SIMFEROPOL OR GREET HIM IN MOSCOW. ONE PECULIAR ELEMENT IN ARRIVAL WAS APPARENT DOCTORING OF PRAVDA PHOTO OF LEADERSHIP AT TRAIN STATION. TV NEWS SHOW VREMYA AUGUST 31 SHOWED ABOUT HALF DOZEN STILL PHOTOS OF ARRIVAL, SEVERAL OF WHICH APPEARED IN VARIOUS MOSCOW NEWSPAPERS THE FOLLOWING DAY. PRAVDA, HOWEVER, SHOWED A DIFFERENT PHOTO WHICH ON CLOSE INSPECTION APPEARS TO BE A COMPOSITE OF TWO, OR POSSIBLY THREE, OTHER PHOTOS OF BREZHNEV'S ARRIVAL. PLACE OF HONOR IN PRAVDA PHOTO GOES, OF COURSE, TO BREZHNEV WHO APPEARS TO BE WALKING AWAY FROM TRAIN WITH GROMYKO, SUSLOV AND USTINOV FLANKING HIM ON ONE SIDE AND KIRILENKO, KOSYGIN AND REST OF LEADERSHIP ON THE OTHER. VIDEO TAPE OF VREMYA CONFIRMS, HOWEVER, THAT THE BREZHNEV PHOTO IS IDENTICAL TO ONE WHICH APPEARED ON VREMYA PRIOR NIGHT IN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT (AND PARTIAL) LEADERSHIP GROUPING. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT BREZHNEV IMAGE WAS CROPPED OUT OF VREMYA PHOTO AND SUBSTITUTED, PRESUMABLY FOR ANOTHER BREZHNEV IMAGE, IN PRAVDA PHOTO. BREZHNEV APPEARS IN PRAVDA PHOTO OVERLAPPING KIRILENKO AND APPARENTLY MOVING

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IN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DIRECTION FROM LEADERSHIP GROUP FLANKING KIRILENKO.

2. WE DEFER TO WASHINGTON EXPERTS ON HOW PHOTO WAS PUT TOGETHER. OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT PICTURE IS COMPOSITE OF THREE PHOTOS -- BREZHNEV IMAGE FROM VREMYA PHOTO SUPERIMPOSED OVER TWO LEADERSHIP PHOTOS WHICH HAD BEEN JOINED TOGETHER, ONE OF GROUP COMPRISING SUSLOV, GROMYKO AND USTINOV, THE OTHER COMPRISING REST OF LEADERSHIP. FULL OR PARTIAL SHOTS OF BREZHNEV MAY HAVE APPEARED ON BOTH PHOTOS, BUT IF SO WERE CUT OUT TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE VREMYA BREZHNEV IMAGE.

3. WHY BOTHER? MOST STRAIGHT-FORWARD EXPLANATION IS THAT PRAVDA, AS THE PARTY PAPER, WANTED TO RUN A SINGLE PHOTO OF THE LEADERSHIP GROUP PRESENT AT THE TRAIN STATION. SINCE NONE OF THE VREMYA PHOTOS WE SAW PRESENTS ENTIRE GROUP, PRAVDA MAY HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE ITS OWN. (EVEN IF THEY ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION, WASHINGTON ANALYSTS WILL NO DOUBT WANT TO PONDER SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACEMENT OF BREZHNEV

IMAGE -- CLOSE TO, EVEN OVERLAPPING THAT OF KIRILENKO, BUT AT SOME DISTANCE FROM SUSLOV.) PHOTOS OF ARRIVAL WHICH APPEARED IN MOSCOW NEWSPAPERS OTHER THAN PRAVDA WERE IDENTICAL TO PHOTOS WHICH APPEARED ON VREMYA AND APPARENTLY NOT RETOUCED.

4. BREZHNEV DID NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC APPEARANCES AFTER HIS ARRIVAL UNTIL SEPT. 8 WHEN HE ATTENDED BOLSHOY BALLET PROGRAM COMMEMORATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEV TOLSTOY'S BIRTH. HIS APPEARANCE IN TV COVERAGE OF THE EVENT WAS NORMAL AND HE WAS ABLE

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ON FOLLOWING DAY TO RECEIVE SENATOR KENNEDY FOR TWO-HOUR MEETING, ALSO COVERED BY SOVIET TV.

5. PRAVDA SEPT. 7 PUBLISHED LENGTHY REVIEW OF BREZHNEV'S LATEST BOOK, A COLLECTION OF SPEECHES AND ARTICLES ON FOREIGN POLICY. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY POINTS MADE IN REVIEW (REF B). IN ITS COVERAGE OF MAJOR FOREIGN

POLICY ISSUES -- DETENTE, ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS,
U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, POLICY TOWARD WESTERN
EUROPE, THIRD WORLD AND CHINA -- REVIEW DOES NOT
BREAK NEW GROUND, BUT RATHER STRIKES US AS REAFFIRMA-
TION AND DEFENSE OF BASIC PILLARS OF BREZHNEVIAN
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FOREIGN POLICY AND AS AMMUNITION TO BE USED AGAINST
DOMESTIC CRITICS, IF ANY SHOULD EXIST AT THE POLICY
LEVELS. GARRISON

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